



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of California*

*501 I Street, Suite 10-100
Sacramento, California 95814*

*916/554-2700
Fax 916/554-2900*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**IDENTITY THIEF SENTENCED TO THIRTY-FOUR MONTHS
IN FEDERAL PRISON**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott, and IRS, Criminal Investigation Special Agent in Charge Victor O. Song announced today that WAYNE JOSEPH DENSON, 57, of Eugene, Oregon was sentenced yesterday in United States District Court to 34 months of imprisonment for committing mail fraud and money laundering in connection with his scheme to defraud auto dealer finance companies in Sacramento and other parts of the state out of over \$467,000. DENSON pled guilty to the charges on April 14, 2003.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Norman Y. Wong, who prosecuted the case, from October 1999, through December 2000, DENSON used stolen identities of recently deceased individuals to purchase and attempt to purchase sport utility and recreational vehicles from various automobile dealerships throughout California. Relying on the credit of these individuals, DENSON financed the purchases through the dealerships' finance companies, e.g., Ford Motor Credit Company. After purchasing the vehicles, DENSON created false documents on the letterheads of the finance companies, purporting to release the liens on the vehicles. He then submitted these false lien releases to the DMV and requested clear titles to the vehicles. Based on the false lien releases, the DMV issued clear titles to the vehicles. After receiving the clear titles, DENSON sold the vehicles to unsuspecting third party buyers.

This case was the product of a joint investigation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation, the United States Postal Inspection Service, the United States Secret Service, and the California Highway Patrol.

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